

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bootle Rural District Council.*

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*March, 1921.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1920.

**The Birth Rate**—22.82—is an improvement on 1919 (16.25), and is the highest recorded since 1909.

**The Death Rate**—14.48—is also an improvement on 1919 (17.48).

These figures are satisfactory to a certain extent, but are not as good as they might be, inasmuch as the Birth Rate for all rural districts in the country is 25.9, and the Death Rate 13.6.

**The Infant Mortality Rate**—38.45—is also lower than 1919 (53.19), and lower than for all rural districts—78.

**Infectious Diseases.**—These consisted chiefly of 14 cases of Scarlet Fever in different parishes, the infection in the first case being probably imported. The three cases of Tuberculosis notified had all been afflicted with the disease before coming to live in the District.

**Water Supply** is good in most parts of the District, with the exception of Eskdale Green.

**Rivers and Streams.**—The pollution is nominal.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The various public sewers throughout the District have worked well.

**Closet Accommodation and Scavenging** are satisfactory.

**Schools** are visited from time to time, and the sanitary conditions are generally good.

**Food : (a) Milk Supply** is ample, and, in my experience, of good quality. It is all produced within the District. The Dairies are well kept.

**(b) Other Foods.**—No unsound food has been found.

**(c) Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**—This is administered by the Police.

**Common Lodging Houses.**—None.

**Housing.**—There is no overcrowding, and the character of most of the houses in the District is good.

**Tuberculosis.**—Three cases notified. The premises are visited and instructions given to occupiers. Should a death occur the premises are disinfected. There is an Open-Air Shelter at Bootle and a Dispensary at Millom.

**Workshops, &c.**—Forty-one are on the register, and have been regularly inspected.

I append Tables of Statistics, and am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. JOHNSTON,

M.O.H. Bootle Rural District Council.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of District during 1920.

Population Estimated for Death Rate 5648, for Birth Rate 5648.	Births.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.		
	Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		Rate
			Number.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	
	129	22.82	5	38.75	12.37
					14.48
				Transferred 12. Total 82.	

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1920.

SCARLET FEVER .....	14
DIPHTHERIA .....	2
TUBERCULOSIS--LUNGS .....	3
MEASLES .....	
PNEUMONIA .....	

Area of district, 92,322 acres.      Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,149 ; at No. of persons per house, 4.0.  
Isolation Hospital—Millom and Bootle Joint Hospital.    Total available beds, 44.

TABLE III.—Causes of Death in Bootle Rural District, 1920.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
(Civilians Only).		
ALL CAUSES.	41	33
1 Enteric Fever ... ..		
2 Small Pox ... ..		
3 Measles... ..	2	
4 Scarlet Fever ... ..		
5 Whooping Cough ... ..		
6 Diphtheria and Croup... ..		
7 Influenza ... ..		1
8 Erysipelas ... ..		
9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	3	2
10 Tuberculosis Meningitis ... ..		
11 Other Tuberculosis Diseases ... ..		
12 Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	5	4
13 Rheumatic Fever ... ..	1	
14 Meningitis ... ..		
15 Organic Heart Disease ... ..	10	8
16 Bronchitis ... ..	2	1
17 Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	1	
18 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	1
19 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..		
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	
21 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..		
21A Alcoholism ... ..		
22 Nephritis & Bright's Disease... ..	2	2
23 Puerperal Fever ... ..		
24 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever		
25 Congenital Debility, &c. ... ..	3	2
26 Violence, apart from Suicide... ..	2	
27 Suicide ... ..		
28 Other Defined Diseases ... ..	8	10
29 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	
Special Causes (included above)		
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..		
Poliomyelitis ... ..		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ... ..	3	2
TOTAL BIRTHS ... ..	63	66
Legitimate ... ..	61	60
Illegitimate ... ..	2	6
POPULATION FOR DEATH-RATE... ..	5,648	
,, BIRTH-RATE ... ..	5,648	

Table IV.—Infant Mortality.—1920

CAUSE OF DEATH :

Congenital Debility      ...      ...	5	Rate per 1000
	Total 5	38·75

DEATHS :

Legitimate 5. Illegitimate Nil.

MILLOM,

March, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report upon the sanitary condition of your District for the year 1920.

May I remind you that no doubt you will find in the Report many points which, in a Report addressed to you alone, would be superfluous, but I have to bear in mind the Report is intended to convey an idea of the sanitary condition of your District, not only to yourselves, but also to the Ministry of Health and the County Council, to whom copies have to be forwarded.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, I have confined myself to the various headings laid down by them, which I trust will be of interest to you and a benefit to the District.

My best thanks are again due to the Council and to the Medical Officer of Health for the support they have accorded me in the discharge of the duties of my office.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

W. BRITTON-JONES

(Sanitary Inspector to the Bootle R.D.C.).

**Water Supply.**—It is always a source of satisfaction to be in a position to report that our District is, generally speaking, extremely well supplied with various schemes of good, pure water, all upon the “ gravitation principle.” These schemes all worked well throughout the year. Thanks no doubt, to the somewhat wet season, no shortage was experienced at either of the supplies.

No new schemes were carried out during the year.

The high standard of the Drigg and Seascale water supply is still maintained, and although this supply is now drawn direct from the intake at Limbeck in order to increase the pressure, difficulty was only experienced upon one occasion, when the intake was choked by debris. An alteration has now been carried out at the intake, and new doors provided, which, I think, will prevent similar chokages in the future.

The position of Eskdale and Newbiggin and their water supplies remain in the same condition as previously reported to you.

A certain amount of complaint as to difficulty in obtaining sufficient water has been considered from various property situated at Lady Hall. The supply, which is a private one, was found to be partially choked ; arrangements were made for improving same.

The farms below Bootle Station are still without adequate supply.

**Rivers and Streams.**—I have pleasure in again reporting that nothing of a serious nature affecting the pollution of the rivers and streams of your District has been observed during the year. As previously reported, the rivers and streams are of such a swift character that it would require very serious pollution to affect these to any appreciable extent.

The Septic Tank which has been built at the lower end of Bootle village has proved a vast improvement, and prevented considerable pollution of the stream there.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—A certain amount of work has been carried out under this heading during the year, the principal of which was the laying of a new line of 9-inch sewer, together



with the building of a large Septic Tank for the lower end of Bootle village. This will enable any of the premises situated on this line of piping to instal water closets in place of the objectionable privies. I am pleased to report that the managers of Capt. Shaw's Schools, also two householders, have already availed themselves of this opportunity. All the drainage connected to this sewer has been relaid and brought up-to-date; this is a vast sanitary improvement.

The various existing systems of sewers throughout the District have received constant attention, and continued to work well during the year, no complaints whatever being received.

Private house drainage has again formed no small part of our work, something like 37 drains having been laid, renewed or repaired, and 14 cases of choked drains dealt with. I am pleased to say the same high standard of workmanship is still maintained, in spite of the high cost. The test of the smoke machine is undoubtedly of great assistance in maintaining this very high standard.

Owing to several cases of sickness, the drainage of Irton Vicarage was submitted to the test, and was found to be in a very defective condition indeed. The various sanitary fittings were also found to be obsolete and defective. It is gratifying to know steps are being taken to renew the whole system and fittings.

**Closet Accommodation.** — I am pleased to be able to report steady progress is being made with the work under this heading, some 18 new water closets and 4 dry-earth closets having been provided during the year.

Whenever the sewerage system permits, water closets are suggested, failing which dry-earth closets are recommended.

I still find in some of the older parts of our District, and in certain isolated places, the objectionable pits in use, having large accumulations of filth stored up, with a view of future use in the garden. These are gradually being remedied. The conversion of these privies into good earth closets is such a small matter as regards expense that there does not seem to be any good reason why it should not be generally adopted. It is imperative there



should be a plentiful supply of dry earth or ashes for use in conjunction therewith. I am surprised to find it is very rare that such provision is made. The pail closet thus becomes almost as objectionable as the privy.

**Scavenging.**—The question of Scavenging remains very much the same as mentioned in my last Report.

The removal of house refuse from the houses at Seascale, which is done by contract twice per week, continues to give every satisfaction, no complaints having been received during the year. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping into an old disused peat-hole, situated in a field well away from the village. The Council provide a proper up-to-date covered refuse cart, which continues to give every satisfaction.

The work of removal of the contents of the privies, etc., at The Hill, Millom, is now working fairly satisfactorily, very little complaint being received.

I again call attention to the important question of scavenging, and which might well be considered by some of our other parishes.

**Sanitary Inspection of District.**—In the course of ordinary routine work, a large number of premises have been visited during the year (as usual, many of the premises need to be visited several times whilst remedial work is in progress) and 106 sanitary amendments were made, the following being a summary :—

Number of new Drains or repaired .....	37
„ Premises provided with new water supply .....	2
„ New W.C.'s and Privies provided .....	22
„ Refuse receptacles provided .....	2
„ Houses cleansed, disinfected, or limewashed ...	27
„ Houses found with defective ventilation under floors .....	2
„ Sundry nuisances abated .....	14
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Total .....	106

I have continued to give every assistance and advice to all enquirers upon sanitary matters, and have supervised all im-

provements, whether these have been done voluntarily or under compulsion, and I venture to suggest that the amount of work accomplished is the best indication of the progress of public opinion upon the advantages of sanitation.

Perhaps the chief improvement of a public nature carried out during the year was the installation of a series of water closets in place of the dry-earth closets at the Capt. Shaw's Schools at Bootle. This is proving a very great sanitary improvement.

The bye-laws for regulating the foreshores at Seascall and Whicham continue to be of considerable advantage to the comfort of those using the seashores at these places. No infringement of the bye-laws was reported.

In view of alterations having been made in the exits, and arrangements made for the use of sanitary conveniences at the old infants' school for the Public Hall at Ravenglass, the Council have agreed to the building being used for public functions. It is to be hoped arrangements will be made in the near future for proper accommodation for both sexes at this hall, as the present arrangements can only be regarded as temporary.

The Narrow Gauge Railway Co. has provided a tea-room, also sanitary accommodation, at the terminus of their railway at Boot. This has proved a great boon to passengers using this railway.

**Schools.**—The various public schools throughout the District are regularly visited, and the high state of cleanliness of the out-offices is maintained.

In practically every case the accommodation at these schools are now either of the "water closet" or "dry-earth" type.

Installation of water closets at Capt. Shaw's School, Bootle, have been carried out during the year.

**Food : Milk Supply.**—The cowsheds are regularly inspected, and are fairly well conducted. The milk is usually carried direct from the farm to the railway, or to the consumer. The supply appears to be abundant and wholesome.

I can only refer to the remarks of my last Report that in view of the increase in the number of persons interested in milk production and the prospect of further drastic legislation in connection with this question, it would appear my remarks in previous Annual Reports upon the construction of the cowsheds will have to be seriously considered.

The dairies of our District continue to be well conducted, and it is always a great pleasure to visit these. I again venture to say that in no part of the country are dairies kept in better condition, and I feel I cannot pay too high a tribute to the cleanliness of the women-folk about our farms.

**Other Foods.**—The number of Slaughter-Houses in our District at present are 4, and all these are regularly inspected. I am pleased to say these continue to be satisfactorily conducted.

It is, of course, very difficult to keep a close watch upon the whole of the meat in so wide a district as ours, yet I am pleased to say no necessity has arisen for seizure of unsound or unwholesome food during the year, and my visits are very frequent and at irregular times.

**Food and Drugs Act.**—In this District the Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Council, through the police.

**Disinfection.**—The number of infectious cases notified during the year were 19, 3 of which were of Tuberculosis.

This branch of our work entails a considerable amount of labour, as it will be readily realised: unless the work is carried out very thoroughly it is of no avail. The work of disinfecting in cases of tuberculosis has very materially increased in this department.

In all cases of infectious diseases disinfectants are supplied, and when the patients have recovered, or have been removed to the Isolation Hospital (as the case might be), the premises are thoroughly disinfected and instructions given as to cleansing, etc.

The Council are well supplied with disinfecting apparatus, having the "Invicta" spraying (under pressure) machine,

“ Alformant Lamps,” and “ Sharratt’s Formaldehyde Fumigators.” There is also a Steam Disinfector at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

**Housing.**—In view of the Ministry of Health desiring particulars of Housing to be shown separately for each parish, I append the table as set out in my Annual Report of last year, which I trust will still be of interest :—

**Particulars of Houses in Bootle Rural District, shown separately in the various Parishes :—**

Name of Parish.	No. of Houses under £16 rent.	No. of houses empty under £16 rent.	No. of Houses above £16 rent.	No. of houses empty above £16 rent.	No. of houses unfit for Habitation.
(1) Birker ... ..	15	1	nil	nil	nil
(2) Bootle ... ..	157	6	19	1	5
(3) Corney ... ..	32	2	nil	nil	2
(4) Drigg and Carlton	66	1	18	nil	nil
(5) Eskdale & Wasdale	76	5	26	nil	nil
(6) Irton and Santon ...	75	nil	19	nil	nil
(7) Millom Rural ... ..	270*	15	33	nil	nil
(8) Muncaster ... ..	112	5	9	nil	5
(9) Seascale ... ..	42	nil	111	2	nil
(10) Ulpha ... ..	60	2	3	nil	5
(11) Waberthwaite ... ..	48	nil	2	nil	nil
(12) Whicham ... ..	75	nil	20	nil	nil
(13) Whitbeck ... ..	24	1	nil	nil	nil
TOTALS ... ..	1052	38	240	3	17

\* These figures are from a previous return.

I am indebted to the Overseers of the various parishes for kindly supplying me with this information.

The continued high cost of all classes of building materials has no doubt caused much work to be postponed. However, I am pleased to be able to report a certain amount of progress.

New buildings have again formed a somewhat important part of my work during the year, plans for 4 new houses, 11 buildings, and one tea-room (16 in all) having been before the Council and dealt with.

**Factory and Workshops Act.**—There are some 41 workplaces upon the register, and these are regularly visited during the year ; generally speaking, the numbers employed are very small, perhaps one or two employees. Any amendments have always received attention without the slightest trouble.

Three cases of premises requiring lime-washing were noticed, and these were attended to.

**Offensive Trades.**—There are no offensive trades in the District.

**Common Lodging Houses.**—There are no common lodging-houses in the District.

**Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act.**—This Act came into operation upon the 1st January, 1920, and I am pleased to report there was a general tendency to give support to the efforts being made to destroy these pests. The County Council provided supplies of poison which were distributed through me, free of cost ; a considerable quantity of this poison was applied for and proved very efficacious where used. It should be understood the obligation is now upon the public to make certain their premises are free of rats and mice, and that there are heavy penalties for failing to comply with the Act.

W. BRITTON-JONES.







